

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
—Additional Estimates Hearing—February 2017**

Answers to Questions on Notice

Parliamentary departments, Department of Parliamentary Services

Topic: **Inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers**

Question: **101**

Written **Senator Farrell**

Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 13 April 2017

With reference to the inadvertent disclosure of mobile telephone numbers of many parliamentarians and their staff published in the Parliamentarians' Mobile and Telecommunications and Data Services Expenditure reports:

- a) Has the Department of Parliamentary Services discussed the breach with or sought the advice of the Privacy Commissioner in relation to the breach?
- b) If not, why not?

Answer

- a) The Department of Parliamentary Services (DPS) is not an APP entity under the *Privacy Act 1988* (Cth), however, as a matter of practice endeavours to comply with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs) under that Act. The Secretary has written to the Australian Information Commissioner (AIC) to notify that there has been an unauthorised disclosure of personal information contrary to the APPs. Steps taken by DPS have been outlined in that correspondence. Based on legal advice, DPS is confident that all relevant steps have been taken; any advice received by the AIC will be given urgent consideration.